

### Washington Letter.

If the administration were of the same mind as the young naval officers war with Spain would be the inevitable outcome of the firing on a United States mail steamer by a Spanish gunboat; but the administration isn't, and there will be no war, notwithstanding the popularity of jingoism in certain quarters. Even before the department of state had been officially informed of the shooting episode the Spanish minister called to say that he had cabled the governor general of Cuba for a report and had received an answer that it would be forwarded as soon as the vessel charged with having fired on the American flag entered port. While holding the opinion that the report will when received put a different face on the matter, the minister says should it appear that there was any offense, or even indiscretion on the part of the commander of the Spanish ship Spain will speedily make an apology consistent with the friendship she bears the United States. It is difficult to see how any trouble can arise, even if this country was seeking it, when the minister of the other country talks in that strain.

There is really far more danger of war in the diplomatic wrangle now on with the continental European countries which are unjustly discriminating against American meat and cattle than there is in connection with the foolish firing of a couple of shots by a hot-headed Spaniard. It is understood that the United States has taken a diplomatic position in dealing with France that is bound to result in a withdrawal of its embargo on our meats by France, or in tariff retaliation by the United States. If the latter is resorted to it must be extended to the other countries, and where it will end, or how, no man can say.

At the conclusion of the arguments in the case involving the constitutionality of the income tax the U. S. Supreme court took a recess until the 25th inst., in order to give its members an opportunity to study and discuss the decision to be handed down in this important case. While the impression is general that the decision of the court will uphold the tax, officials of the government do not conceal their fears that it may do otherwise. The principal reason why administration officials fear a decision declaring the income tax unconstitutional is that it would mean the calling of an immediate extra session of congress, to replace in some way the twenty-five or thirty millions of prospective dollars which the killing of the income tax would keep out of the treasury, and which will be needed during the next fiscal year. So far as mere legal argument—learned jugglery, some call it—was concerned the government was outclassed, although Attorney General Olney made a much better argument in favor of the constitutionality of the tax than might have been expected from a man who is credited with being strongly opposed personally to the tax, who is a corporation lawyer.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, U. S. Labor Commissioner, in a public lecture this week said: "The regulation and control of monopolies properly belongs to government. If trusts were operated in a proper manner this might go far toward settling the labor question. And yet, so far, every attempt to regulate trusts has been a failure." Mr. Wright in the same lecture used the following language, which appears to leave a doubt as to just where he stands on a very important question: "I am absolutely opposed to governmental control of railroads, but we must admit that government may regulate transportation for the good of the whole country, for a corporation exists for the benefit of the people, and not the individual." By the way, wonder if Mr. Wright can name even one corporation that does actually so exist.

Attorney General Olney has never been a popular official and probably never will be—his ideas are too exclusive and his carriage too lofty for plain, everyday people—but he has one good trait for an official, he doesn't go off half-cocked. Several days ago one of the federal officials at New Orleans lost his head, during the riots in that city, and telegraphed to Mr. Olney, asking that the U. S. troops in New Orleans be ordered to quell the riot. President Cleveland was away, but Mr. Olney did not even take the trouble to

confer with any of the other members of the cabinet before wiring the sender of that telegram that U. S. troops would not be used in New Orleans until the city and state authorities had officially stated their inability to cope with the rioters. That federal official would probably never have sent that telegram had it not been for the new instructions, sent soon after the Chicago railroad strike, to all federal officials concerning the use of U. S. troops to preserve public property. He doubtless thought those instructions meant that the U. S. troops were to be called out whenever there was rioting.

WASHINGTON, March 22, 1895. For years there have been many prominent Cuban annexationists in the United States. The question has never been made a political one or annexation might have been accomplished before this. It would be difficult to find two men wider apart upon everything political than Senators Morgan, of Alabama, and Frye, of Maine, are, but just read how perfectly they agree on Cuban annexation, and do not forget that they are both members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator Morgan, being the chairman. Said Senator Frye, of that little diplomatic flurry with Spain: "It looks as if Spain would make the required apology and as if all would soon be settled. I had hoped it would be otherwise, and that Spain would assume such an arrogant and belligerent tone that it would be necessary for the United States to go over and take possession of Cuba. We certainly ought to have that island in order to round out our possessions as they should be, and if we cannot buy it, I for one should like to have an opportunity to acquire it by conquest." Said Senator Morgan: "I am in favor of purchasing Cuba or of acquiring it by any other just method. I have always been a Cuban annexationist, for the Island is an important one to the United States. If the revolutionists are able to hold out for a year they will be able to secure material assistance from persons in this country, not only in the way of money, but in men, in spite of all efforts to prevent it. There are many men who ready to go into a war for Cuba, or any other war, and there will be no way of keeping them out of it if the men who are leading this revolt show that they command any real strength at home." Since these public utterances the prediction is freely made that a new movement for the annexation of Cuba will soon begin to show itself in this country. In fact, many believe that Secretary Gresham made his recent

demand upon Spain unnecessarily harsh with the hope that it would make Spain do something that would justify an attack upon her.

There are a great many rumors as to the decision which is expected next week from the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the income tax, but they are probably based entirely upon guesswork, as it is seldom, indeed, that any advance information as to decisions of the Supreme Court ever gets out. A gentleman who opposed the income tax in Congress said: "In far-reaching effects this is one of the most important decisions this court has ever been called upon to make. A decision against the constitutionality of the tax would make an extra session of Congress necessary, but it will also be a much greater evil than that. It will convince the already suspicious masses—those who have only what they work for—that our highest legal tribunal is susceptible to the powerful influences now wielded by corporate wealth, and that would be the greatest national calamity that could possibly happen. An incorrupt judiciary is the keystone of a successful republic. If it ever becomes otherwise the republic will soon cease to be."

This administration has been peculiarly unfortunate in its dealings with Hawaii, and its last move—demanding that Mr. Thurston, the Hawaiian minister to the United States, shall be recalled—is no exception. The reason given—that Mr. Thurston has given information to American newspapers concerning the affairs of his country—is particularly weak in view of the fact that Secretary Gresham only the other day made public his demand for an apology from Spain before that demand had been presented to Spain. There is an old saying: "What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander"—that is specially applicable to this case. While no member of the diplomatic corps is willing to be quoted, it is well known that they are to a man of the opinion that the administration has made a mistake. There is no precedent to support a demand for the recall of a foreign minister because he has stated to the public or press a condition of facts within his country. On the contrary, exactly the reverse was held by Mr. Webster when he was secretary of state. Of course Mr. Thurston will have to go, as it is an inviolable international rule that even an intimation that a minister is *persona non grata* to a country means his recall.

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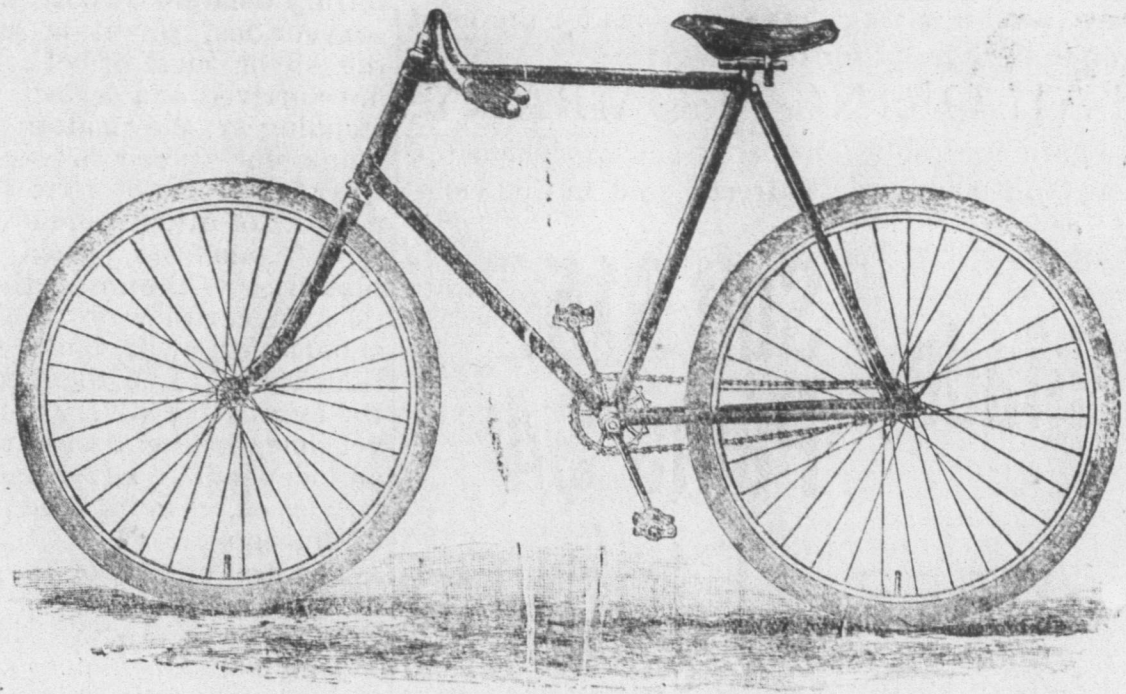
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Rensselaer, Ind.  
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